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Reply to Office Action of July 14, 2008

Remarks / Arguments

Applicants acknowledge and appreciate the Examiner's finding that claims 104-108 are allowable and that claims 23, 67, and 95-98 are allowable but for their dependence on a rejected base claim.

Without acknowledging the merits of the rejections in the July 11, 2008 Office action, and in order to advance prosecution of the application, Applicants are:

1. Amending claim 15 to include the non-redundant subject matter of claim 23 and cancelling claim 23;
2. Amending claim 61 to include a variant of the subject matter of claim 67 and cancelling claim 67;
3. Amending claim 95 to include the subject matter of the previous version of claim 15; and
4. Cancelling the previously withdrawn claims (claims 17-20, 25, 27-31, 37-38, 63-66, 76, 80-82, 87-88, 99-100 and 103).

Regarding the amendment to claim 15, deletion of the phrase "and configured to prevent relative movement of the first and second components in response to said control signal" does not expand the scope of the subject matter because claim 15 still recites that the control unit conditionally deactivates the lifting device.

Claim 61 has been amended to include subject matter similar to that of claim 67. Claim 67 originally recited the articulating deck and elevating frame as the components between which relative motion occurs. Amended claim 61

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specifies the elevating frame and the base frame as the components between which relative motion occurs. Applicants have also replaced the phrase "in response to an obstacle" by the phrase "for detecting an obstacle" to more accurately describe the obstacle detection signal. Applicants believe the allowabilty of amended claim 61 is unaffected by these changes.

Claims 16, 21, 32-35 and 101-102 are allowable due to their dependence, directly or indirectly, from claim 15 which is in condition for allowance.

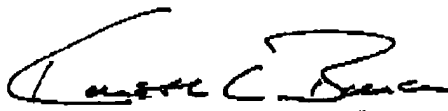
Claims 62, and 109-111 are allowable due to their dependence, directly or indirectly, from claim 61 which is in condition for allowance.

Claims 96-98 are allowable due to their dependence, directly or indirectly, from claim 95, which is in condition for allowance.

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Request for Reconsideration:

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is now in condition for allowance and request allowance of claims 15-16, 21, 32-35, 61-62, 95-98, 101-102, and 104-111. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicants' undersigned representative if it appears that a telephone discussion would help resolve any outstanding matters.



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